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PROPOSED REVISION OF THE UNITED STATES GRAIN STANDARDS FOR SOYBEANS

The Agricultural Marketing Service has under consideration a revision of the official grain standards of the United States for soybeans, which, if adopted, would become effective with the harvest of the 1941 crop. (The principal changes involve moisture content and split soybeans as grading factors, and the adoption of a dockage system.)

The proposed revision is presented at this time in order that the public may have opportunity to consider the suggested changes in advance of public conferences to be announced later. The conferences will be held in the principal producing and marketing areas during May. At these conferences producers, dealers, processors and others who may be interested will be given an opportunity to present their views as to the desirability of adopting the proposed revision.

The present soybean standards have been in effect under the Grain Standards Act since November 20, 1940, and had been in effect as permissive standards for 5 years prior to that date. Suggestions for changes in the standards have been made from time to time by persons engaged in producing, marketing, inspecting, and processing soybeans.



Results of grain standardization research conducted by the Agricultural Marketing Service indicate that a reduction in the maximum limits of moisture for certain of the grades, and an increase in the quantity of splits in each of the numerical grades should be considered. It has been found, also, that the incorporation of a dockage system in the standards would be desirable, not only as a matter of standardization but also to meet present-day production, merchandizing and processing conditions. It is believed that the revision as proposed will provide a more equitable distribution of soybeans within the respective grades.

Moisture. The standards now in effect prescribe maximum moisture specifications for grades Nos. 1, 2, and 3 at 15.0 percent, 15.0 percent, and 16.5 percent, respectively. Under the proposed plan the maximum moisture specification in grade No. 1 would be fixed at 13.5 percent; in grade No. 2 at 14.5 percent; and in grade No. 3 at 16 percent. The specification for grade No. 4 would remain the same, at 18 percent.

Splits. The proposed plan contemplates a liberalization of the quantity of splits permitted in the numerical grades. Under the present standards 1 percent of splits is permitted in grade No. 1; 10 percent in grade No. 2; 20 percent in grade No. 3; and 30 percent in grade No. 4. Under the proposed plan the maximum limits for splits will be 8 percent in grade No. 1; 15 percent in grade No. 2; 25 percent in grade No. 3; and 40 percent in grade No. 4.

Dockage. In the application of the present standards, foreign material is a factor which frequently determines the numerical grade notwithstanding the fact that much of the foreign material found in soybeans is readily removable. At the present time there is a custom in the trade to assess discounts by weight for foreign material present in soybeans when they are marketed. These conditions seem to indicate the practicability of a dockage system for soybeans, similar to dockage systems now in use for several of the other grains. It is proposed to use a dockage sieve with smaller perforations than that now in use for the determination of foreign material, to the end that the loss of valuable material in the form of pieces of soybeans will be reduced to a minimum.

Other factors. Minor changes are recommended for several other grading factors such as condition, general appearance, other colors, and weevily soybeans.

The following proposed standards for soybeans contain the changes suggested:

PROPOSED STANDARDS FOR SOYBEANS^{1/}

(For discussion only)

For the purposes of the official grain standards of the United States for soybeans:

Soybeans. - Soybeans shall be any grain which, before the removal of dockage, consists of 50 percent or more of threshed soybeans and not more than 10 percent of other grains for which standards have been established under the provisions of the United States Grain Standards Act.

Classes. - Soybeans shall be divided into five classes as follows: Class I, Yellow Soybeans; Class II, Green Soybeans; Class III, Brown Soybeans; Class IV, Black Soybeans; and Class V, Mixed Soybeans.

Yellow Soybeans (Class I). - This class shall include all varieties of yellow soybeans and may include not more than 10 percent of soybeans of other colors, but may include not more than 5 percent of brown, black, and/or bicolored soybeans, either singly or in any combination. A tinge of green on soybeans otherwise yellow shall not affect their classification as Yellow soybeans.

Green Soybeans (Class II). - This class shall include all varieties of green soybeans and may include not more than 10 percent of soybeans of other colors, but may include not more than 5 percent of brown, black, and/or bicolored soybeans, either singly or in any combination.

Brown Soybeans (Class III). - This class shall include all varieties of brown soybeans and may include not more than 10 percent of soybeans of other colors.

Black Soybeans (Class IV). - This class shall include all varieties of black soybeans and may include not more than 10 percent of soybeans of other colors.

Mixed Soybeans (Class V). - This class shall include all mixtures of soybeans not provided for in the classes I to IV, inclusive. Bicolored soybeans shall be classified as Mixed soybeans.

^{1/} The specifications of these standards shall not excuse failure to comply with the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

Grades. Soybeans shall be graded and designated according to the respective grade requirements of the numerical grades and Sample grade of the appropriate class and according to the special grade when applicable.

Grade requirements for Yellow Soybeans, Green Soybeans, Brown Soybeans, Black Soybeans, and Mixed Soybeans.

	: Minimum :					
	: test :				Maximum limits of -	
Grade	: weight :					
No.	: per :			: Damaged :		
	: bushel :	Moisture	Splits	: kernels :	Foreign	
	:	:	:	:(soybeans :	material	
	:	:	:	: and other:	other than	
	:	:	:	: grains) :	dockage	
	: Pounds :	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	
1 <u>1/</u>	: 56 :	13.5	: 8 :	2 :	1 :	
2 <u>1/</u>	: 54 :	14.5	: 15 :	4 :	2 :	
3	: 52 :	16.0	: 25 :	7 :	4 :	
4 <u>2/</u>	: 49 :	18.0	: 40 :	10 :	6 :	
	:	:	:	:	:	
	:	:	:	:	:	
Sample	: Sample grade shall include soybeans of any of the classes					
grade	: Yellow Soybeans, Green Soybeans, Brown Soybeans, Black					
	: Soybeans, or Mixed Soybeans, which do not come within the					
	: requirements of any of the grades from No. 1 to No. 4, in-					
	: clusive; or which contain stones and/or cinders; or which					
	: are musty or sour or heating or hot; or which have any					
	: commercially objectionable foreign odor; or which are					
	: otherwise of distinctly low quality.					
	:					
	:					

1/ The soybeans in Grade No. 1 of each of the classes Yellow Soybeans and Green Soybeans may contain not more than 2 percent, and the soybeans in Grade No. 2 of each of these classes may contain not more than 3 percent of Black, Brown, or bicolored soybeans, singly or combined.

2/ Soybeans that are badly weathered or badly stained shall not be graded higher than No. 4.

Dockage

Dockage includes weed seeds, weed stems, chaff, straw, grain other than soybeans, sand, dirt, and any other foreign material, which can be removed readily from the soybeans by the use of a 20-gage metal sieve having round-hole perforations 8/64 inch in diameter; also undeveloped, shriveled, and pieces of soybeans removed in properly separating the foreign material.

The quantity of dockage shall be calculated in terms of percentage. The percentage of dockage so calculated, when equal to 1 percent or more, shall be stated in terms of whole percent, and when less than 1 percent shall not be stated. A fraction of a percent shall be disregarded. The word "Dockage," together with the percentage thereof, shall be added to the grade designation.

Special Grade for Soybeans

Weevily Soybeans

Definition. Weevily soybeans shall be soybeans that are infested with live weevils or other insects injurious to stored grain.

Grades. Weevily soybeans shall be graded and designated according to the grade requirements of the standards applicable to such soybeans if they were not weevily, and there shall be added to, and made a part of, the grade designation, the word "Weevily."

Definitions

Basis of grade determinations. - Each determination of moisture, dockage, temperature, odor, live weevils or other insects injurious to stored grain, shall be upon the basis of the grain as a whole. All other determinations shall be upon the basis of the grain when free from dockage.

Percentages. - Percentages, except in the case of moisture, shall be percentages ascertained by weight.

Percentage of moisture. - Percentage of moisture shall be that ascertained by the water oven and the method of use thereof described in Service and Regulatory Announcements No. 147 of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture, or ascertained by any device and method which give equivalent results.

Test weight per bushel. - Test weight per bushel shall be the weight per Winchester bushel, as determined by the testing apparatus and the method of use thereof described in Bulletin No. 1065, dated May 18, 1922, issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, or as determined by any device and method that give equivalent results.

Splits. - Splits shall be pieces of kernels of soybeans. Splits shall not include soybeans with cracked skins only.

Damaged kernels. - Damaged kernels shall be kernels and pieces of kernels of soybeans and other grains which are heat-damaged, sprouted, frosted, badly ground-damaged, badly weather-damaged, or otherwise materially damaged.

Other grains. - Other grains shall include wheat, rye, oats, corn, grain sorghums, barley, hull-less barley, flaxseed, emmer, spelt, einkorn, Polish wheat, poulard wheat, and cultivated buckwheat.

Foreign material. - Foreign material shall be all matter other than soybeans which is not separated from the soybeans in the proper determination of dockage.

